



RURAL DISTRICT OF NORTH WESTMORLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

---of the---

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1943.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Rural District Council of North Westmorland.

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District during the year 1943. The Report follows the lines of those presented during the past two years.

It is with pleasure that the return of Mr. Calvert to duty after his lengthy illness can be recorded. During this absence the Rural District of Penrith afforded considerable help in Sanitary matters and I wish to say how grateful I am to their Inspectors for their assistance.

I am indebted to the help I have received from the School Medical Officers of the County in carrying out immunisation against Diphtheria and tend to them my thanks.

Should you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to supply the same on your request.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. Baron Cockill.
Medical Officer of Health.

15th, May, 1944.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st. 1943.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	16.1
" " England & Wales.	16.5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	17.6
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	12.2
" " England & Wales.	12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	<u>Deaths.</u>
Puerperal Sepsis.	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes.	Nil.
Total.	Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate, England & Wales. 1.45

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births. 50
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. 51
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. 35
Infantile Death Rate, England & Wales. 49.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough. (all ages)	Nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.
" " Cancer. (all ages)	28.

The largest number of Deaths from any one Cause were:-

Heart Disease	57
Cancer.	28
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	22

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There have been no material alterations during the year.

In the Eastern Area, all the villages with the exception of Outhgill are provided with piped supplies; thirteen villages and numerous farms are supplied from the Regional Extension Scheme with chlorinated water.

There are also sixteen separate water supplies serving 26 villages, twelve of which are vested in the Council and four privately owned; these latter are situated at Ravenstonedale, Newbiggin-on-Lune, Hartley and South Stainmore. As the gathering grounds of many of these contain peaty layers, after heavy rain there is often discolouration; this is specially noted at Kirkby Stephen and many attempts to remedy it have failed; the water is chlorinated.

In the Western Area, there have been numerous bursts, chiefly above and below the filter house (on the Regional Scheme), owing to the high pressure. The inadequate storage of the reservoirs aggravates the difficulty of providing a continuous supply if a burst is not found and rapidly repaired.

An agreement has been reached with the Manchester Corporation to instal an electric recorder which will indicate the immediate occurrence of a burst.

Metering the supply of water to dairy premises has been inaugurated.

Barton and District Supply has been adequate and no complaints as to the quality have been made.

Orton and Tebay supplies have been normal except for the occurrence of occasional bursts and faulty fittings.

Buildings.

This has been confined to the new Agricultural Workers houses which are being erected as follows - four each at Temple Sowerby and Kirkby Thore, two each at Longmarton, Brougham, Sockbridge and Melkinthorpe.

There has been only one case of overcrowding; repairs to houses are very difficult to arrange owing to the shortage of skilled labour.

No action has been required in connection with verminous conditions other than that for Black Beetles.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

An extension has been made at Bampton and faulty sewers at Ravenstonedale and Orton have been remedied.

Public Cleansing.

In the Eastern Area a new Motor Vehicle has been obtained and in the following villages a monthly collection has been arranged:- Temple Sowerby, Hartley, Nateby, Winton. Kaber, Brough Sowerby, Ravenstonedale, Newbiggin-on-Lune, Soulby, and Crosby Garrett, whilst in Kirkby Stephen there is a weekly collection. In other villages, contracts for public cleansing are in operation. In the Western Area there has been the difficulty of obtaining contracts for this work and it is proposed to resort to direct labour with a suitable vehicle provided.

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Cancer. 28

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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies.

Owing to the increased demand for milk, a considerable number of farms which used to rear stock and sheep have taken to milk production; in many cases cowsheds and dairies were found to be unsuitable and owing to the shortage of skilled workers in the building trade, it has been very difficult to get defects remedied and with the shortage of farm workers the standard of cleanliness has not improved. Milking machines and cattle water bowls have been installed at some farms and whilst the farmers have only reduced labour, there is much more difficulty in securing cleanliness.

Of 47 samples taken, 17 complied with the standard of accredited milk, 3 with the Methylene Blue Test, 6 with the B. Coli test and 21 with neither. No Tubercle Bacilli were found in any sample.

Meat.

Penrith supplies the Meat for the Western Area and a certain amount for the Eastern Area, the remainder is derived from the Slaughter House at Kirkby Stephen.

Adulteration etc., and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and this work is carried out by Mr. C.J.H. Stock, B.Sc., F.I.C., County Analyst, Darlington.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	119	239	40	4238	24
Number inspected.	119	239	40	4238	24
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcasses condemned.	5	20	24	16	3
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	32	115	3	542	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	31.09	56.4	67.5	13.1	45.8
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	3	19	1	-	3
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	11	65	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	11.7	35.1	2.5	-	20.8

Hostels.

The following are in existence:-

Cliburn, for Agricultural Workers.
Ravencragg, Ullswater, for training boys for sea.
Winderwath, Cliburn, for aged persons.
Brackenber Lodge, Shap for mentally deficient.
Morland Hall, a Convalescent Home for Service men.
Croft House, Warcop for "problem" evacuee children or for those whom foster parents, on account of illness or other conditions are unable to look after when billeted upon them.
Marton House, Longmarton, a Nursing Unit admitting children under five years of age.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of Infectious Disease was about the same as in the previous year, there being 15 cases of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Diphtheria, 2 of which occurred in adults, 1 case each of Typhoid Fever, Paratyphoid Fever and Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 5 cases of Erysipelas, 4 of Puerperal Pyrexia and 2 of Poliomyelitis. There were many cases of Pneumonia, 27 in all, of which 4 proved fatal. Measles and Whooping Cough were also fairly prevalent, 66 cases of each being notified and there was a certain amount of Influenza towards the close of the year, but not of a serious character.

Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria with A.P.T. has been continued throughout the year and 141 pre-school and 76 school children have completed the treatment.

Modern Isolation Hospital accommodation is still lacking.

The school Medical Officer states that a fairly high standard of nutrition has been maintained and that it is seldom a verminous child is seen and the high standard of cleanliness which existed before the reception of evacuees has returned.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

Disease.	Total.	Ages.											Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever.	15	-	1	-	2	3	6	-	3	-	-	-	14	-
Diphtheria.	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-
Enteric Fever.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia.	27	2	-	2	-	2	1	1	5	3	6	3	-	4
Erysipelas.	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	66	-	2	3	9	28	16	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	66	3	6	5	12	27	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	192	6	9	11	23	63	26	3	19	6	8	3	20	4

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Resp-iratory.		Non Resp-iratory.		Resp-iratory.		Non Resp-iratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15.	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	-
25.	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
35.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTAL.	7	4	3	3	1	2	-	-

There was no increase in this disease; 11 Pulmonary and 6 Non-Pulmonary cases were notified; of these 5 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary had contracted the disease before coming into the Area, 3 Pulmonary being Military Cases. None of these cases terminated fatally during the year.